Some new Beetles from North Carolina, with Ecological Notes (Coleop.).

By Charles Dury, Cincinnati, Ohio.

From June 16 to July 6, 1910, I collected insects in the Plott Balsum Mts., N. C. Every day of that time it rained. Sometimes it poured for hours at a stretch, frequently all night, though generally there were a few hours each day when the sun was shining. But few diurnal Lepidoptera were seen, and they the most common species. Diptera and Hymenoptera were also very scarce. Coleoptera were more abundant, though mostly of common well known species. The rainfall at this season in these mountains is tremendous. The superintendent of the fibre mills at Canton told me that it rained one summer 90 consecutive days since he had been there, at least a shower each day. A few new species of Coleoptera were secured, three of which are here described. In addition, I enumerate some of the more interesting and desirable species taken.

Cychri were not abundant. They were *canadensis*, *bicarinatus*, *andrewsii* and *guyotii*. About a dozen species of *Pterostichus* were identified among which were *P. sploliatus*, *blanchardi*, and *palmi*. *P. adoxus* was very abundant as was *Platynus angustatus*, which merged into the one described as *gracilentus* by intergrading forms. Three times I climbed to the top of "Jones' Knob" (over 6,000 feet), each time to be driven back by a deluge of rain. From the trunk of a felled balsam tree some huge blue *Anthophilax* had recently emerged: I found dead and broken ones but none living. A few *Emmesa connectens* Newm. were taken from under bark. Beating the large flowers of *Rhododendron catawbiense* brought down showers of beetles mostly Longicorns of five or six small species.

Coiled under the bark of a fallen tree, I counted 14 beautiful little snakes of three species. The male snowbirds (*Junco*) were singing and several nests were found, all located on the ground. One of July 1, had four fresh eggs in it. The concealment of this nest was so ingenious and perfect, it never could have been found had I not noted the bird fly out of it. It was on

a sloping bank with a lace-like screen of ferns hanging down to hide the entrance.

The growth of fungus was prolific, and some of the plants huge in size. *Oxyporus* and other Staphylinidae were plenty in these fungi. From one small *Agaricus,* about 2 inches in diameter, 24 *Oxyporus* 5-*maculatus* were taken. Under bark a few *Hypoteles capito* Lec. were found, in company with *Rhizophagus minutus,* and other flat species modified for an existence in the narrow crevices of close-lying bark. Beneath a flat stone in a nest of *Termes* were a number of *Trichopseuius,* curious little Staphylinids that are only found associated with *Termes.* When I had picked up three of the active little beetles, the rain came down in torrents. I replaced the stone over the nest, but next day when I went back hoping to get more, the *Termes* had departed, and their guests had gone with them. Of Pselaphidæ, *Adranes coecus* was found in a nest of black ants under a slab. *Euplectus crinitus* and a large *Batrisodes,* perhaps a new species, together with *B. globosus* and *virginiae* occurred under bark. *Centrodera decolorata* was beaten from foliage and came down amid a shower of water. Flying about among the wet weeds on the mountain sides were many scorpion flies, of the genus *Panorpa, P. signifer* and *P. maculosa* especially abundant.

At night many moths and beetles came to light and some fine ones were captured. In this work I was ably assisted by a setter dog belonging to the manager of the Lodge. The intelligence of this dog was a marvel. After chewing up several specimens, his master told him not to bite them. He evidently understood for after that he knocked the beetles down with his paw and held them until we bottled them. The only *Acanthocinus nodosus* taken, was caught in this way by the dog. This dog seemed to understand what we were doing better than the mountaineers, one of whom said to the manager of the Lodge, "What was the matter up to your house last night? I seen a feller jumping around on your porch waving a white flag." He had evidently mistaken our butterfly net for a flag of truce. Four species of *Lachnosterna* came to light, the most common of which was *L. corrosa* Lec.

Less than 250 species of Coleoptera, and most of them common, were identified on the trip. Rather a disappointment considering the hard work done. Among the unidentified species the following seem to be new:

Pinacodera virescens n. sp.

Head and thorax piceous black, shining. The thorax with wide pale border, wider behind. Hind angle obtuse, margin punctured and transversely wrinkled. Elytra dull opaque green, strongly alutaceous. Legs and antennae pale. Length 9 mm.; width 4.50 mm.

One male.—Plott Balsam Mts., North Carolina, June, 1910. As compared with the other North American species, this is a shorter and broader insect.

Scaphisoma (Scaphiomicrus) carolinae n. sp.

Black, shining. Punctures of prothorax very minute, those of elytra slightly coarser. Each elytron with a sharply defined rufous spot near base, rounded in front and extending obliquely back to apex, leaving a triangular black area on dorsum of elytra, which area extends three-fourths way to elytral apex. Sutural striae flexed outward at base in male, straight in female. Beneath strongly punctured, except the last four ventral segments. Postcoxal plates not reaching one-half the length of basal segment. Parabolic in form behind. Three specimens, 1—9 mm.

Balsam, North Carolina, June, 1910. In fungus. This species recalls Mr. Fall's *S. ornata* from Alabama, but is larger, much broader, elytral maculation different and punctures finer.

Athous lengi n. sp.

Color ochre-yellow with an oblong piceous cloud in middle of thorax, extending from base to apex, and another along elytral suture from scutellum to apex. Thorax closely and strongly punctate, elytra and body beneath more finely so. Antennal joints of male more serrate than in female. Second joint short, third to eleventh subequal in length. Front coxae covered with dense fine pale buff-colored pubescence. Male 13 mm., and female 16 mm. long.

One from Balsam, North Carolina, and one from Clayton, Georgia. One also taken at Clayton by Dr. Lore of New York, June. A large stout species that recalls in facies the female of *Corymbites longicornis* from North Carolina, and *Athous vittiger* from the State of Washington, though very different structurally. Named in honor of Chas. W. Leng, of New York.